

May 16, 1975

LB 522, finally makes it possible, at least in a limited way, for those kids to participate in those bus lines, in a transportation that they, as I just said, have paid for for other kids. Why not now let them ride along since they have paid for it? I think that's the only issue.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: I'd like to have Senator Lewis answer a question if I could, Mr. President. Senator Lewis, can we go through this just very simply. You're going to have the buses that are on the public school routes now stop and pick up any parochial or nonprofit private school?

SENATOR LEWIS: That's correct.

SENATOR BARNETT: Let me ask you a question then. In relationship to this, and the only thing that really bothers me on this and that's a great bother, and that is the fact, what about towards the end of the line or the end of the trip, as these buses get closer to public schools, do they bring another bus along now that they're going to start picking up the nonprofit kids earlier or....do you see what I mean?

SENATOR LEWIS: Let me explain transportation in the state of Nebraska right now. Transportation is not required for secondary students unless those students live in excess of four miles from the attended center. The situation is that most of those people know how many students they have riding the buses. In our judgement there would be a accurate count as to who they would be transporting, how they would be transporting, because the school board and the school administration would surely understand where the students were and would be able to designate their bus needs. Again, I think that this is important that the members of this body understand that we're not talking about the transportation, and Senator Nichol, I think this is important for you, of any student who is not qualified under the same condition that a student who attends a public school is qualified under. I think that eliminates some of the concerns that you have, Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: That isn't what I was looking for right now. I think you could do alot better then that if you'd listen to what I'm asking you instead of making a speech.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Barnett, I always try to pay attention to you because of your leadership.

SENATOR BARNETT: Now, pay attention.

SENATOR LEWIS: I'm listening.

SENATOR BARNETT: If I start out as a bus driver and I have 34 passengers in a 36 seat capacity bus, and I pick up four or five nonprofit parochial schools the first two or three stops, what should I do, call in and ask for another bus to pick up the public ones at the end of the route or what?